

Feb 07, 2006 00137

February 6, 2006

Mr. Paul A Marshall
Department of Water Resources
South Delta Branch
Draft EIS/EIR Comments
1416 9th Street, 2nd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: South Delta Improvements Program

Dear Mr. Marshall:

I am an owner of riverfront property in the South Delta. I'm very concerned with the possible impacts the permanent flow control gates will have on the river. Our property is downstream of the gates at Grant Line and Fabian and Old River. The barriers will have the following impacts on our use of the Delta:

1. Barriers will impede access to Grant Line and Fabian canals. This barriers will force more boaters onto the already congested West Canal. The increase boat traffic will make these canals more dangerous. The delta is already a treacherous location for boating.
2. Barriers may lower water levels downstream making boat access more difficult. The area around Hammer Island, Middleton's Island and Little Hawaii have historic erosion and siltation problems. This is caused by the increased water velocity due to pumping action. The barriers may exacerbate the problem by holding back flows from Old River and Grant Line, Fabian and increasing flows from West Canal. Increased flows may cause additional erosion and sitlation problems. Will the Department of Water Resoures take responsibility for the siltation and erosion problems for the area around the CVP intake?
3. There is significant boat traffic accessing Grant Line and Fabian Canels from the west end. The flow control gates will make this access much more difficult and will close-off a significant portion of the south delta to boaters. Very few boaters access these canals from the east. Has a study been done to assess the impact to the boating community? The gates should be moved to the east end of Grant Line and Fabian!

Considering the recent decline in the delta smelt and other indicators signaling a significant problem with the delta, shouldn't these major modifications to the delta be reconsidered or delayed until there is more understanding of the delta environment and the reasons for the fish declines?

Sincerely,

Robert M. Lyman
920 Old Hawthorne Rd
Lafayette, CA 94549